CLAIMS

1. An adapter device (10) designed to be interposed between a projectile (12), fitted with deployable fins (16), suitable for occupying a folded position, and a launching tube (14), said device being characterised in that it comprises a retaining ring (22) suited to being mounted on an open end of the launching tube (14), an adapter tube (24) suited to being placed around the projectile (12), such that the fins (16) in the folded position are lodged in a first part (38) of the adapter tube (24), and hooking means (26) of the adapter tube (24) on the retaining ring (22), in a position such that the first part (38) of the adapter tube (24) is situated outside the launching tube (14) and that a second part (40) of the adapter tube (24) is received in the launching tube (14).

2. The adapter device (10) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first part (38) of the adapter tube (24) comprises des longitudinal guide grooves (42) terminating inside the adapter tube (24), so as to be able to receive each of the fins (16) of the projectile (12).

3. The adapter device (10) as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the first part (38) of the adapter tube (24) comprises longitudinal external grooves (44) and each of said longitudinal guide grooves (42) is formed in

the corresponding one of said longitudinal external grooves (44).

4. The adapter device (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first part (38) of the adapter tube (24) comprises an external ring (34) adjacent to the second part (40) of the adapter tube (24) and capable of being supported against an open end of the launching tube (14).

5. The adapter device (10) as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the hooking means (26) are interposed between the retaining ring (22) and the external ring (34) of the adapter tube (24).

6. The adapter device (10) as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the hooking means (26) comprise dunking mechanisms (30).

7. The adapter device (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said device further comprises mobile transport elements including a protective cap front (48) and a protective cap back (50), to be placed respectively on the front and back ends of the projectile (12) covered by the adapter tube (24), and a transport sling (52) connecting said protective caps (48, 50).

8. The adapter device (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein an open end of the adapter tube (24), opposite the second part (40) of the latter,

is provided to be placed behind auxiliary propulsion units (18) of the projectile (12).

9. The adapter device (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the projectile (12) is a missile guided by optical fibre (20).

10. The adapter device (10) as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the adapter tube (24) comprises an end closed by a base (32), opposite the first part (38) of the latter, and a pulley (36) for returning the optical fibre (20), mounted inside said base (32).

11. The adapter device (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the launching tube (14) is a mortar tube.